

When George W. Bush joined the Texas Air National Guard, he could have volunteered for overseas duty as did JOHN KERRY, but he checked the other box on the form, the one that said "do not volunteer."

In March 1969, JOHN KERRY's swift boat was one of five on patrol in the Bay Hap River. They came under attack. The boat was hit. An intense fire fight ensued. Suddenly a mine detonated near his boat. JOHN KERRY was hit and bleeding. Viet Cong fired automatic weapons from the shore. A man in KERRY's boat fell overboard. JOHN KERRY would not leave that man behind. Under intense fire, JOHN KERRY turned the boat around. With both sides exchanging fire, JOHN KERRY moved to the bow of the swift boat, exposed to enemy fire. Still bleeding, JOHN KERRY did not hesitate. He reached down into the water, bullets whizzing by. JOHN KERRY grabbed hold of the sailor and pulled him into the boat. For his courage and valor under fire, JOHN KERRY was awarded the distinguished Combat "V."

JOHN KERRY was wounded three times in battle serving his country. Yet, Republicans on this floor rose to dishonor every combat veteran by attacking JOHN KERRY and others.

In 2000, Senator Max Cleland of Georgia lost both legs and one arm in Vietnam. Republicans disgraced themselves by impugning the man's courage and service to the Nation. America needs to know. Where was President Bush during the Vietnam War?

Missing without action, that is where the President was.

In February 1972, the military stripped George W. Bush of his flight status. He was suspended from flying for failure to take a required physical exam. Why? Why did George W. Bush not take the physical? Would a physical have revealed a top gun or a smoking gun? We do not know.

There is an 11-month gap in George W. Bush's record, from May 1, 1972 to April 1, 1973. George W. Bush was not only grounded during this period, he was on the ground in Alabama working in a political campaign. That is not a mission in the National Guard manual. We would like to know more, but the National Guard Bureau Chief told a Spokane, Washington newspaper he was under orders not to talk.

Why is that?

We know that Senator JOHN KERRY was wounded in battle three times. We know that Senator JOHN KERRY never left a man behind. We know that Senator JOHN KERRY fought with courage and valor on behalf of his country.

We know that George W. Bush flew under the radar, because that is the only explanation of how a pilot suspended from flying parachuted into a Republican political campaign in Alabama.

JOHN KERRY, Max Cleland. America has many heroes from the Vietnam War. It is time Republicans and the administration honor the courage and

valor of American veterans, no matter what party they belong to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1945

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARME- NIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one and a half million Armenians who perished in the Armenian genocide that began 89 years ago on April 24, 1915. I consider this a sacred obligation, to ensure that future generations of Americans remember the first genocide of the 20th century and to ensure that the men, women and children who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire are not lost to history.

We have always recognized the transience of memory. It is why we set aside holidays and build monuments to honor our heroes and the events that have shaped our societies. The stone and concrete of a memorial serve to freeze history and to preserve it for those who will follow. The written word cannot be burned when it is etched into rock.

Time is the ally of those who would deny or change history. Such has it been with the government of Turkey and the Armenian genocide. Although the genocide was perpetrated by modern Turkey's predecessor, generations of Turkish leaders have steadfastly denied that the genocide ever took place, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Time is on their side. The generation of Armenians with direct memory of the genocide is gone. Their children are

aging. Much of the rest of the world has moved on, reluctant to dredge up unpleasant memories and risk the ire of modern Turkey. For those of us who care deeply about the issue, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that our Nation, which has championed liberty and human rights throughout its history, is not complicit in Ankara's effort to obfuscate what happened between 1915 and 1923. Worse still, by tacitly siding with those who would deny the Armenian genocide, we have rendered hollow our commitment to never again let genocide occur.

Among historians there is no dispute that what happened to the Armenian people was genocide. Thousands of pages of documents sit in our National Archives. Newspapers of the day were replete with stories about the murder of Armenians. Appeal to Turkey to stop massacres headlined the New York Times on April 28, 1915, just as the killing began. On October 7 of that year, the Times reported that 800,000 Armenians had been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor. In mid-December of 1915, the Times spoke of a million Armenians killed or in exile.

Prominent citizens of the day, including America's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, and Britain's Lord Bryce reported on the massacres in great detail. Morgenthau was appalled at what he would later call the sadistic orgies of rape, torture, and murder. Lord Bryce, a former British ambassador to the United States, worked to raise awareness of and money for the victims of what he called the most colossal crime in the history of the world. In October 1915, the Rockefeller Foundation contributed \$30,000, a sum worth more than half a million dollars today, to a relief fund for Armenia.

Others, too, reacted in horror to what Ambassador Morgenthau called, for lack of a specific term, race murder. In the early 1930s, 10 years after the genocide, a young Polish attorney named Raphael Lemkin, who had read of the genocide as a child, tried to get European statesmen to criminalize the destruction of ethnic and religious groups. He was dismissed as an alarmist. A few years later, when Hitler invaded Poland, Lemkin lost 49 members of his family in the Holocaust.

Lemkin escaped, first to Sweden, where he documented the horrors going on in Nazi-occupied Europe and then to the United States, where he worked for the Allied war effort. He resolved to create a word to convey the mass atrocities being committed by the Germans. In 1944, while working for the U.S. War Department, he coined the term "genocide," citing the slaughter of Armenians three decades earlier.

In 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It confirms that genocide